

Patriot's Pride

Volume 2, Issue 1

March 2005

The Patriot Brigade Family Readiness Group Quarterly Newsletter



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MESSAGE FROM PATRIOT 6



Greetings to Patriot Soldiers and Families from the heart of Kuwait! I hope you all had a very Happy Easter. We have just completed a short-notice deployment with a very quick state-side training program. We are now in Kuwait preparing for our move north to Iraq for a year long deployment with Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq (or MNSTC-I, pronounced "M-N-STICKY"). Before I get into why we are going to Iraq, let me bring you up to speed on what we've been doing as a Brigade since our last Newsletter in December.

Looking back. Since our last Newsletter we have provided support to 5/78 TSB at Fort Dix, developed our concept for and began implementation of Individual Replacement and Mobilization Training Center (IRMTC) at Fort Drum, completed our Forward Operating Base, conducted our first 20 Unit Readiness Validations (URV), conducted train up for our annual EXEVAL as a Defense Coordinating Element (DCE) and prepared a 68 Soldier team for a year-long deployment to Iraq. That's quite a bit of work accomplished in just 3 months. Let me talk briefly about each.

Fort Dix. From late November 2004 to late February 2005, two successive task forces led by 3-314 FA, then 1-314 IN deployed to Fort Dix in support of 5/78 TSB. At Fort Dix Patriot O/C-Ts and supporters conducted Defense Live Fire and Urban Operations (Battle Drill #6) training for Security Force units and others deploying to OIF. Our O/C-Ts significantly improved the quality of training they were responsible for. Patriot O/C-Ts were repeatedly recognized by visitors to training, to include First Army CSM, 78 Div CG and the 5/78 TSB Cdr.

IRMTC. In early December we received yet another change of mission to develop and execute training for First Army's Individual Replacement Mobilization Training Center. The concept calls for all Soldiers deploying to OIF as replacements for units from

First Army AOR to conduct 20 days of training at Fort Drum. After planning and preparation from late December to February, we began our first test cycle in March. In the end 3-309 CS/CSS Bn assumed responsibility for all coordination and training execution with attachments from 1-314 IN and 3-314 FA. 2-313 LSB retained its role of logistic support to training. As part of IRMTC, Soldiers spend 8 days training in a to-standard Forward Operating Base (FOB). Soldiers from 3-309 with help from DPW and 479 EN Bn completed work in March. 2-313 drew equipment from 77 and 99 RRCs to support FOB operations. [See photos on Page 10]

URVs. After a year of waiting for a directive to begin, Patriot Brigade TSBns began conducting FORSCOM required Unit Readiness Validations of Reserve Component units. First Army established priority to units with deployment orders and those who have been back from a mobilization for over 12 months. TSBns with teams from of 2 to 5 O/C-Ts conducted some 22 unit evaluations of personnel, maintenance and training readiness. URVs are meant to help unit commanders establish a realistic baseline of their readiness using external observers.

Patriot Defense. From 1-3 March while simultaneously preparing a Brigade team for deployment to Iraq, key members of the staff conducted our annual train up exercise of the Defense Coordination Element (DCE). COL Dave Bongi took my place as the Defense Coordinating Officer (DCO) as I was preparing for deployment. Under the leadership of our DSCA Planner, Rick Nicklas, and S3, LTC JB Shattuck, the DCE ran itself through the paces using a winter storm scenario similar but more severe than the storms we've experienced this winter. Participants included several SEPLOs, FEMA representatives and Boston's USCG Captain of the Port. The exercise met all its objectives and the DCE is now set for success at the upcoming EXEVAL scheduled for early April.

Iraq. Now I'll turn to our most significant news. On the eve of President's Day Weekend, First Army alerted 2/78 TSB to prepare for deployment to Iraq as the core of a Public Order Division Special Police Transition Team (SPTT). The deployment date was set for March and we spent the few weeks that followed assembling, training with other SPTTs at Fort Hood, then taking a short block leave before leaving on Easter Sunday.

Our specific mission is to provide broad advisory support to the Iraqi Public Order (PO) Division and provide Iraqi PO Commanders. The PO Division has the mission of controlling large scale public disturbances, reinforcing local police efforts and defeating insurgent actions.

We are now in Kuwait and will be here for another week conducting mission-specific training before moving to Iraq. Once in Iraq we will spend about 10 days working with Special Forces and linking up with teams currently working with PO units. Once that training and link up is complete we will deploy to our PO units and begin hand over and assumption of our mission.

The advisory and coordination role is one that suits our O/C-Ts and the Training Support Brigade well. We will be advising Iraqi units with the goal of making them more capable, competent and disciplined so that they can effectively protect and defend the good Iraqi people. The endstate of our mission and that of other advisors is to render the Iraqi Security Forces capable of ensuring the security and defense of Iraq on their own. This is now the decisive element of all coalition efforts and our eventual ticket home from OIF.

Since our last newsletter we have had a few key leader changes. We promoted CSM Hannavan of 3-309 CS/CSS Bn and transferred him to assume responsibility as CSM of 2-313 LSB. We also bid farewell to MSG Peterson, our stalwart S3 Ops NCOIC, and received MSG Healy (also recently promoted). Additionally, a number of great Patriot Officers and NCOs were selected for promotion. Please see the Honors

Section later in the Newsletter. A hearty Congratulations to them all!

Looking ahead. Over the next quarter our main effort at Fort Drum will be supporting IRMTC and making the training as best as possible for deploying Soldiers. The Brigade (-) will continue to provide training support, albeit on a very limited scale, and Defense Support to Civil Authorities (DSCA) as required. For the latter, our annual DCE EXEVAL is planned for 4-10 April in Connecticut. The EXEVAL will be part of a major NORTHCOM / Department of Homeland Security Exercise called TOPOFF 3 / Ardent Sentry 05. The Brigade (-) will also be prepared to provide replacements and augmentees as required for the SPTT mission in Iraq.

In summary, we will be gainfully employed at home and decisively engaged in the war fight in Iraq. We are making a huge contribution to our Army's mission. I thank you for all you are doing for your Patriot Soldiers, the Patriot Brigade, the Lightning Division and our Army. Your hard work and sacrifices are appreciated and continue to make a difference in keeping America safe and strong. God bless you.

COL Skip Davis
Patriot 6
Patriots!

BRIGADE MINISTRY TEAM

Greetings from 2nd Brigade Unit Ministry Team:
Chaplain (LTC) Walter McGehee and SFC Reinhart Meyers

"We know that in everything God works for the good of those who love Him" (ROMANS 8:28)
From time to time every person looks ahead at the future and wonders what it holds. He is also likely to ask himself how he can bring about a future that is one of dignity, honor, usefulness and fulfillment. You and I wonder: What will be my future in this chaotic world?

If you want to hitch your wagon to dignity, honor, usefulness and fulfillment, I can think of no better way than to observe the powerful text of Romans 8:28. If you dedicate your life to loving God, everything that happens to you, harsh, painful, hard though it may be, combines with all the rest of your experience for good. If you are in harmony with God's will and mindful of his love, your life will turn difficulties into blessings, chaos into order, discouragement into victory!

Our next Marriage Enrichment and Relationship Program will be held at the Hillside Lodge at Remington Pond, on 6 May 05, from 1000 to 1400 Hrs. A working lunch will be provided. Please do not miss out on this excellent opportunity. We are collecting a commitment fee of \$5.00 which will be returned to each participant at the time of the program. You will find that this is a very meaningful and informative program. This training is open to everyone: **single, married, divorced, engaged, dating, or considering marriage in the future**, this training workshop is for you! This training workshop is designed to increase your knowledge, and be an encouragement, and a positive influence in better understanding what goes on in relationships. If you have any questions please call us at 2-6136.

Thank you for your support. Please consider what God can do in your life! If there is anything we can do for you please call Chaplain McGehee at 607-785-5801, or SFC Meyers at 315-772-6136,

Office in Bldg T321, or Home at 315-493-1016
or e-mail to rmeyers1@twcny.rr.com.

FAMILY READINESS

Patriot Brigade FRG

Points of Contact:

78 th TSB:	Roger Allen
2 nd Bde/78 TSB:	Lee Shattuck
HHD:	Kristi Bice
1-314 IN:	Bridget Grimm
3-314 FA:	Sylvia James
3-309 CS/CSS:	Susan Jennejahn
2-310 CS/CSS:	Robert Navin
3-310 CS/CSS:	Hulya Gallagher
3-313 LSB:	Karen Brown



The 2nd Bde, 78th Div (TS) has just recently completed the task of creating a FRG work area for its FRG Leaders and Volunteers. The

Patriot Brigade recently established this work area in its headquarters designed to assist HQ and Battalion FRG Leaders and Volunteers in making their important job just a little bit easier. Thanks, in large part, goes to the Brigade's HHD Supply Sergeant, SFC Marcus Johnson, who took the lead in setting up the work area. SFC Johnson worked with his Company Commander and Brigade Staff to acquire computers, office furniture, and other office amenities. As in any organization, quick and effective communication is one of the keys to success. The Patriot Brigade is unique in that it is made up of a mix of Active and Reserve Component Soldiers, as well as a team of dedicated DA Civilians whose members live and work across the eight-state region of the Northeast and New England. This geographic dispersion makes the work of the Patriot Brigade's FRG just a little more challenging than most. The new FRG work area gives the Brigade's FRG Leaders and Volunteers the resources they need to effectively communicate information to all members of the Patriot Brigade Family. It provides them with access to the Internet, email, word-processing and desktop publishing software, as well as telephone, fax machine, and copier to conduct their important business free of personal expense.

78TH DIV DEPLOYS

Determination, Dedication, and Loyalty are just a few of the qualities that have made the 78th DIV what it is today. Even during WWII the 78th stood out among their comrades.

"In eleven days you advanced more than 50 miles against the enemy. You captured 47,581 prisoners, including 7 General Officers. You captured some 120 towns and villages. You cleared over 300 square miles of enemy territory... The courage, fighting heart, and aggressive spirit which broke the Siegfried Line, wrested Schwammenauel Dam from the enemy, and secured the now famous Remagen bridgehead, are still with you."- General Parker

"Although the 78th Infantry Division is relatively new in combat, you have given ample proof that in future operations you will add new honors to those you have already achieved in this..."- Maj. Gen. C.R. Huebner, V Corps Commander

On April 17th, after 128 days of continuous front-line duty, the Lightning Division was taken off the line and put into reserve for a well-earned rest.

After more than 58 years of "rest" the 78th Division has been called to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Here are some photos of the 78th preparing for departure.



CPT Bice and LTC James
Having a laugh before the deployment



LTC Kerecz, LTC Grimm, LTC James, CSM Bolduc
Receive deployment instructions from COL Davis while waiting for their PLANE to FORT HOOD.



78th DIV soldiers headed to Fort Hood.



CPT Ingold and CSM (R) Carter
CSM Carter came out to say farewell to all the soldiers deploying.

News Flash

Section 701 TriCare Select for Reserve and National Guard

These benefits allow Reserve and National Guard personnel of all the Military components and their family members to receive one year of TriCare Select (Modified TriCare Standard) medical benefits for every ninety days served while mobilized for a Contingency Operation. The rate for TriCare Select has not yet been determined. These benefits are ONLY for members that are and remain in a Selective Reserve IMA or TPU.

Qualifying Factors:

1. Soldiers that are demobilizing will be required to enter a WEB site and commit to the amount of years they want to receive this benefit prior to REFRAD at the MOB site.
2. Each soldier that wants to participate in this program will be required to reenlist or extend their service obligation to match the amount of time they want to participate prior to the 160th day of TA180. If the soldier is transferred to the IRR for any reason and no longer a Selective Reserve member the benefits will stop immediately.
3. Prior to the 160th day the soldiers unit will be required to enter the WEB site, print the form which will then be signed by the soldier and the Unit Commander and kept on file for record generating an electronic transaction sent to DEERS to finalize the benefits and update DEERS.

Disqualifying Factors:

1. If a soldier is transferred to the IRR the benefits will stop immediately and cannot be reestablished unless the transfer was an error.
2. Discharge from the military, ETS, or being placed in the Retired Reserve.

The open enrollment is scheduled to begin 26 April 2005 and run until the end of October 2005 and will cover back to 11 September 2001.

Early TriCare benefits for Reserve and National Guard

Early TriCare benefits are for IMA, TPU, and IRR soldiers and their Family Members authorizing TriCare coverage for the up to 90 days prior entering Active Duty for Mobilization both Medical and dental. This benefit is only for those members and their families that are being mobilized for a contingency operation.

Qualifying Factors:

1. The individual mobilization orders are required to be issued not the unit notification and the order date will begin the benefits up to 90 days prior to going Active Duty.
2. Soldiers requiring information on TriCare packages will be required to contact the Regional TriCare office for details.

Disqualifying Factors:

1. If a soldier is issued Annual Training (AT) or Active Duty for Training (ADT) orders prior to mobilization that do not exceed 31 days of continuous Active duty then they do not qualify for any TriCare benefits. Issuing numerous AT or ADT orders for short periods less than 31 days at a time do not count for a total of 31 days or more and will not give the soldier any benefits. While on AT or ADT orders the soldier is ineligible to receive the Early TriCare benefits.

Online Pre-Registration of Privately Owned Vehicles

Beginning 1 March 2005, eligible personnel, both on and off post, will be able to pre-register their privately owned vehicles online by filling out the required vehicle registration card prior to arriving at the Vehicle Registration Office.

The location of the online form is

<http://www.drum.army.mil> and
<http://mountainnet.drum.army.mil>

Pre-registering privately owned vehicles online would result in less time spent by the customer at the Vehicle Registration Office.

BRIGADE HIGHLIGHTS

To attend a Presidential Inauguration is a once in a lifetime event. At this year's Inauguration 7 soldiers from the 2/78 were invited to attend. Below are some photos from the Inauguration.



Back row- Mr. O'Hagen, SFC O'Hagen, CPT Helmer, Mrs. Neumeyer, CPT Neumeyer, CPT Bice.
Front row- MSG Ruggiero, MSG Turner, SPC McIntosh, and Mrs. Bice



MSG Ruggiero and CPT Helmer at the Gala event.



Army Chief of Staff GEN Schoomaker and SPC McIntosh



CMH Awardee and CPT Bice



Army Chief of Staff GEN Schoomaker and MSG Turner



Mrs. Kristi Bice and CPT Bice on their way to the Commander's in Chief Ball.

Presidential inaugurals are not only a moment to look to our nation's future but a chance to celebrate the democratic principles and ideals that have made America great.

At this year's inauguration soldiers from 2 BDE 78th DIV (TS) were invited to share in this celebration. They were given tickets to the Gala event, the parade and the Commander's in Chief Ball. They were honored to take part in this historical event.

It was truly a once in a lifetime opportunity. Each soldier was able to take a family member or a battle buddy to share this experience with.

At the Gala event there were country singers, celebrities, and members of all military branches. The Gala event was held to honor all who serve in the military.

On the last night was the Commander's in Chief Ball. This was by invitation only. The ball was for all military branches those that received invitations had either been deployed to Afghanistan or Iraq. While at the ball the soldiers of the 78th met many different important people to include Donald Rumsfeld and Gen. Schumacher.

"Attending the inaugural events in Washington, DC was definitely a once in a lifetime opportunity. Most noteworthy was attending the "Commander in Chief Ball". This 'invitation only' event was the most prestigious ball in DC on inauguration night. Glancing around the room to see people of the highest stature in the military was amazing." - MSG Jennifer Turner.

"It was a once in a life time experience and an opportunity to see old friends that I served with in Iraq."- CPT Helmer

MORALE

Beginning Feb 7 through Dec 31, 2005, Anheuser-Busch is offering free admission to its Sea World and Bush Gardens parks, for active duty military (plus three direct dependents), active reservists, U.S. Coast Guard, and National Guardsmen.

Any active duty, active reserve, ready reserve service member or National Guard is entitled to free admission under the program. He or she need only register, either online at <http://www.herosalute.com/> or in the entrance plaza of participating parks, and show a Department of Defense photo ID. As many as three direct dependents of military personnel also are entitled to free admission. Dependents may take advantage of the offer without their service member, though an adult must accompany minor dependents.

Busch Gardens Williamsburg and Sea World San Antonio are seasonal operations that will remain closed until spring 2005. Military personnel interested in visiting those parks should check operating schedules at <http://www.herosalute.com/>. The remaining parks, Sea World Orlando, Busch Gardens Tampa Bay and Sea World San Diego are open year round. Anheuser-Busch has previously honored U.S. armed forces with free admission to its theme parks. Nearly 2 million service members and their families visited free during Yellow Ribbon Summer following the first Gulf War and during the Anheuser-Busch Salute to America's Heroes, a post-9/11 tribute that included all branches of the U.S. military. In addition, last year Anheuser-Busch donated \$1 Million to create the Intrepid/Anheuser-Busch Fallen Heroes Fund to provide scholarships to spouses and children of U.S. military and coalition personnel killed during the war in Iraq. Anheuser-Busch has supported the U.S. armed services for nearly 150 years. In 1921, Adolphus Busch's widow, Lilly, opened the Busch family garden to the public, donating admission fees to disabled veterans.

The company also supports veterans' memorials in Washington, the Korean Memorial and the Vietnam Wall. The company also provides scholarship funds for USO members and Desert Storm survivors.

"In our own small way, we're giving something back to the brave men and women and their families who make sacrifices every day for our country," said August A. Busch IV, president, Anheuser-Busch Inc. "As a salute to America's heroes, we wish to extend a message of thanks and an invitation."

EDUCATION

FREE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR US MILITARY, VETERANS AND FAMILY MEMBERS - INCLUDING SPOUSES

Washington D.C., February 7, 2005 - The Federal and Military Scholarship Group today announced that there are now COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS available to active duty members of the US military AND to Veterans AND Family Members - INCLUDING Spouses - from a fully accredited college, thanks to a new program from Grantham University, a leading distance education institution of higher learning.

Funding by DoD for these kinds of programs is limited. Call 1-866-850-2979 for information.

PROMOTIONS DECEMBER-MARCH



**SSG Allen was promoted to SFC.
HHD**

**SFC Healy was promoted to MSG.
HHD**

**MAJ Bunch was promoted to LTC.
HHD**



**CPT Robinson was promoted to MAJ.
3-314**

**CPT Reichart was promoted to MAJ.
HHD**

**CPT Kreeel was promoted to MAJ.
3-314**



**SFC Fink was promoted to MSG
3-309**

**1SG Hanavan was promoted to SGM
3-309/LSB**

**CPT King was promoted to MAJ
HHD**

The Civilian side to the 78th

In the 78th Div. We have soldiers and civilians working side by side to accomplish just about all missions. With the great team that we have built we are able to complete all task. As 1600 rolls around, look around. When many of the post civilians are heading out the gate at the end of the duty day, our civilians are right here, shoulder-to-shoulder with the green suitors, supporting Operation Patriot Lightning. Their loyalty and dedication, once again, shines. Our hats off to all.



COL Helton presents Diane McMullen Civilian of the Quarter Award



Mr. Nicklas was TDY during the Installation award ceremony. COL Davis presents Richard Nicklas with his Civilian of the Quarter Award

New arrivals to the 2/78th



Jose Miguel Nava - 8 Jan 2005
 Claire Elizabeth Jacobs - 4 Mar 2005
 Andrea Creel - 24 Jan 2005

FOB DEYOE



PATRIOT IMPERATIVES

The following eight imperatives are essential to realizing the vision I have for the Patriot Brigade. Each imperative is what Patriot Soldiers and Leaders are, do, or demonstrate everyday.

Prepared, professionals always. Certified, cross-trained. Never quit before reaching the standard or accomplishing the mission. Never accept substandard.

Attitude - positive, enthusiastic, caring. Proud of who we are and what our unit does. Care for Family, subordinates, buddies, unit. Inspire same attitude and pride in those we train and support.

Trainers and training managers par excellence. Know and use FM 7-0, FM 7-1. Plan, prepare and execute doctrinally correct, challenging, realistic, performance-oriented training - safe and to standard. Use 10-step training model.

Role models in terms of living Army values (LDRSHIP) and Warrior Ethos, and demonstrating technical competence, physical fitness, and bearing.

Innovative, creative in our approach to training design and execution. Focused on combat conditions. Focused on constant improvement of unit and subordinates' skills and leadership potential.

O/C-Ts who know and enforce Army and unit standards - training, readiness (equipment and personnel), and safety. Effective in executing AARs and in providing oral and written feedback.

Team players within the Patriot Brigade. Team players with Fort Drum units and all with whom they work.

Subject Matter Experts who provide the units we train and support the breadth of our expertise. Always improving personal knowledge base and skills.

Soldiers Creed

I am an American Soldier.

I am a Warrior and a member of a team. I serve the people of the United States and live the Army Values.

I will always place the mission first

I will never accept defeat

I will never quit

I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills.

I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.

I am an expert and I am a professional.

I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.

I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.

I am an American Soldier.

Helpful Web Sites:

2nd Brigade, 78th Division (TS) Homepage:

<http://www.tsb-drum.army.mil>

2nd Brigade, 78th Division Online Newsletter*:

<http://www.tsb-drum.army.mil> then click on the "Family Readiness" link in the left hand frame.

78th Division (TS) Homepage (AKO**):

<https://78thdiv.us.army.mil/default.htm>

78th Division Veteran's Association:

<http://home.pon.net/gregf/78thdva/78thdiv.htm>

U.S. Army Reserve Personnel Command:

<https://www.2xcitizen.usar.army.mil/2xhome.asp>

Army Family Team Building:

<http://www.armyfamilyteambuilding.org/home.asp>

Army Well-Being Website.

www.wblo.org

Army One Source:

<http://www.armyonesource.com>

Fort Drum, NY Homepage:

<http://www.drum.army.mil>

Fort Devens, MA Homepage:

<http://www.devens.army.mil>

Guard and Reserve Family Toolkit:

<http://www.defenselink.mil/ra/family/toolkit/>

Checkbook Management Class - Avoid costly overdrafts. Learn how to balance a checkbook. 772-6894. 1-4 pm

In-Processing. Receive valuable information on MWR programs, volunteer opportunities, employment information and more. Please bring family medical records. Held at Clark Hall, room A1-74. 772-6902 1-3 pm

The information above is extracted from the Fort Drum Preview. The Preview is a MWR newspaper issued monthly and distributed free throughout the Fort Drum Community. Please pick one up regular for a complete listing of available current Fort Drum events!

*This and previous newsletters are also available in the Army Knowledge Collaboration Center (AKCC) 2nd Bde, 78th Div Cmd community, located inside Family Readiness. (Requires AKO access—read below for more info). The link to this site is: <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/folder/1123283>

**Army Knowledge Online (AKO) access required. To gain access, you must have a valid AKO user account. To access this link, you must already be logged into the AKO web site. The first time you access this link, you will be asked to subscribe to gain access to the online newsletter archive folder. Soldiers can sponsor their Dependents on AKO by clicking on the "Sponsor Mgmt" link under "My Account" options on AKO located on the left navigation bar.